

REMARKS

The specification and Abstract have been amended as requested by the Examiner during a telephone call on December 12, 2002. The claims have also been amended as requested by the Examiner to eliminate matter that was indicated as being objectionable under 35 U.S.C. Section 112.

Respectfully submitted,
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By _____

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

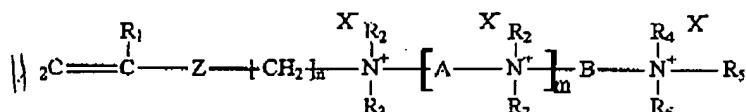
IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 4 were amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for cleaning and treating a surface of a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

(I) applying a cleaning solution to the surface of a vehicle wherein the cleaning solution comprises at least one water-soluble or water dispersible copolymer comprising, in the form of polymerized units

(a) at least one monomer compound of general formula I:



in which:

- R₁ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl or ethyl group;
- R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆, which are identical or different, are linear or branched C₁-C₆[, preferably C₁-C₄, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or aminoalkyl groups];

- m is an integer from 0 to 10[, preferably from 0 to 2];
- n is an integer from 1 to 6[, preferably from 2 to 4];
- Z represents a -C (O) O- or -C (O) NH- group or an oxygen atom;

- A represents a (CH₂)_p group, p being an integer from 1 to 6[, preferably from 2 to 4];

- B represents a linear or branched [C₂-C₁₂] C₂-C₁₂], advantageously C₃-C₆], polymethylene chain optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms or heterogroups[, in

particular O or NH], and optionally substituted by one or more hydroxyl or amino groups[, preferably hydroxyl groups];

- X, which are identical or different, represent counterions;

(b) at least one hydrophilic monomer carrying a functional group with an acidic nature which is copolymerizable with (a) [and which is capable of being ionized in the application medium];

(c) optionally at least one monomer compound with ethylenic unsaturation with a neutral charge which is copolymerizable with (a) and (b), preferably a hydrophilic monomer compound with ethylenic unsaturation with a neutral charge, carrying one or more hydrophilic groups, which is copolymerizable with (a) and (b);

(2) optionally [contacting the surface of the vehicle with the cleaning solution while applying the cleaning solution] agitating the cleaning solution to loosen dirt on the surface of the vehicle;

(3) rinsing the surface of the vehicle to remove at least some of the cleaning solution;

(4) at least partially removing any residue-forming substances remaining on the surface of the vehicle, if any residue-forming substances remain on the surface of the vehicle;

(5) applying a treating composition to the surface of the vehicle, said treating composition comprising [an effective amount of] non-photoactive nanoparticles;

(6) allowing the treating composition to dry on the surface of the vehicle before [the surface of the vehicle is contacted by water] any water subsequently contacts the treated surface of the vehicle.

4. (Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the [method is performed without a step of drying the surface of the vehicle after step (4)] surface of the vehicle is not dried after the step of rinsing the surface of the vehicle with purified rinse water.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The statement under the heading "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS", on page 1 of the specification was replaced with the following corrected statement:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent application Serial No. 09/950,757 filed on September 11, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent application Serial No. 09/875,311, filed on June 6, 2001, which claims the benefit of the filing date of PCT international patent application US00/16349 filed on June 14, 2000; and a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 09/876,363, filed on June 7, 2001, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional U.S. Patent application 60/265,059, filed on January 30, 2001; and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent application Serial No. 09/828,014 filed on April 6, 2001.

IN THE ABSTRACT

The Abstract was replaced with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a system and method for cleaning and/or treating a surface, preferably surfaces such as ceramic, steel, plastic, glass and/or painted surfaces such as the exterior surface of a vehicle. The system and method utilize a cleaning composition that contains at least one water-soluble or water dispersible copolymer. The method may also include a step of applying to the surface a treating composition which contains non-photoactive nanoparticles.